41. (**Amended**) An isolated nucleic acid molecule wherein a complement of the nucleic acid molecule specifically hybridizes ~~to nucleotides 1-448 of~~ SEQ ID NO:1 under standard hybridization conditions.

Remarks

Claims 35 and 41 having been amended, claims 1-4, 7-19, and 21-51 are pending.

The amendment of claims 35 and 41 is supported by the specification at, for instance, page 14, lines 13-21.

Applicants note with appreciation the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4, 10, 13, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; claims 1-20, 33, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; and claims 21-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Levitan (Textbook of Human Genetics, 3rd Ed., 1988, New York, Oxford University Press). As claims 1,4, 7-19, 21-34, and 36-51 do not presently stand rejected, the Examiner is respectfully requested to allow them.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a)

The Examiner maintained the rejection of claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Accession No. AL008632 (S. Mistry). This rejection is respectfully traversed. In the interests of furthering prosecution, claim 35 has been amended to recite "an isolated oligonucleotide that specifically hybridizes to a nucleic acid molecule . . . ." Claim 35 has also been amended to delete the language which was added to claim 35 in the Amendment and Response dated May 23, 2000, i.e., "wherein the oligonucleotide hybridizes to the SCA8 coding sequence of the long arm of chromosome 13." The Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) .